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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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	(PCT Article 36 a	and Rule 70)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference RB-Chern 18wo	FOR FURTHER ACTIO	ON See Notific	ation of Transm Examination Report	ittal of Internation (Form PCT/IPEA/41
International application No.	International filing date (da		Priority date (day/	
PCT/CH2003/000305 International Patent Classification (IPC	13 May 2003 (13.		17 May 20	02 (17.05.2002)
G01G 17/06				
. Applicant	CALLY COLUMN	A I TID		
	CHEMSPEED	LID.		
and is transmitted to the appli 2. This REPORT consists of a to This report is also accordanced and are the be 70.16 and Section 607 These annexes consist 3. This report contains indication I Basis of the report contains I Priority	ortal of sheets, including a sheets, including a sheets, i.e., sheet asis for this report and/or sheets confidence of the Administrative Instructions of a total of sheet sheet a sheet	luding this cover sets of the description taining rectification under the PCT).	heet. on, claims and/or dr tions made before	awings which have b this Authority (see R
IV Lack of unity	of invention terment under Article 35(2) with re explanations supporting such state	egard to novelty, it		
VI Certain docu	ments cited cts in the international application			
VIII Certain obse	rvations on the international applic	cation		
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Date of submission of the demand 16 October 2003		ate of completion	of this report August 2004 (20).08.2004)
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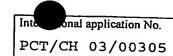




International application No. PCT/CH2003/000305

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This rep beyond blacement statis report 170.17).	the claims, Nos the drawings, sheets/fig port has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been consider the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).** sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are rest as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 14).	eferred to
	the internation pages pa	the international application as originally filed the description: pages

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NO

: 35(2) with regard to ting such statement	o novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability	;
Claims	7, 9-20, 22, 23, 25, 30	YES
Claims	1-6,8,21,24,26-29,31-35	NO
Claims	7, 9-20, 22, 23, 25, 30	YES
Claims	1-6,8,21,24,26-29,31-35	NO
Claims	1-35	YES
	Claims Claims Claims Claims Claims	Claims 7, 9-20, 22, 23, 25, 30 Claims 1-6,8,21,24,26-29,31-35 Claims 7, 9-20, 22, 23, 25, 30 Claims 1-6,8,21,24,26-29,31-35

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

Claims

D1: EP-A-0 731 344 (YAMATO SCALE CO LTD) 11

September 1996 (1996-09-11)

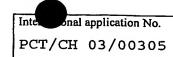
D2: WO 02/29369 A (CHEMSPEED LTD; METZGER FRANZ (CH); FRANK PAUL (CH); GUELLER ROLF) 11 April 2002 (2002-04-11) [cited in the application]

1.1 The general principle of dosing a substance using a plurality of individually emptiable substance compartments, as defined in claims 1 and 26, is already known in the prior art, for example from the publication D1 (see example 1, figure 1). The receiving device (1) comprises compartments (2, 3a-d, 4a-d) with emptying devices (5, 6, 8), and scales (7). The compartments can be emptied individually, and the emptying is controlled according to the amount determined by the scales.

In said prior art, the scales are not connected directly to the vessel that is to be filled, but to the receiving device. However, it clearly serves to determine the amount of substance to be dosed, and thus also to determine the amount that is actually dosed.

The device according to claim 1 and the method according

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to claim 26 do not therefore meet the requirements of novelty (PCT Article 33(1) and (2)).

- 1.2 The additional features of dependent claims 2-6, 8, 21, 24, 26-29 and 31-35 are also already known from said prior art. (Since the filling of the substance compartments per se is not defined in the claims, a "prefilled" compartment (claim 4) does not differ from the compartments according to D1.)
- 2. The available prior art contains no suggestion as to the features of the special embodiments of the compartments according to dependent claims 7, 9-20, 22, 23 and 25, which are concerned with the problem of dosing small amounts of substance for laboratory purposes. The same applies also to method claim 30. These claims therefore meet the requirements of PCT Article 33.

3. Additional observation

It follows from the description that the device of the present application functions according to a quite different dosing principle than that of publication D1. In D1, prior to the emptying of the first substance compartment, the number of compartments to be emptied is determined according to the measured weight in the dosing device. In the method of the application, after every dosing step, the weight is measured in the vessel that is to be filled, and the number of compartments still to be dosed is determined therefrom. These differences with respect to the prior art cannot, however, be found clearly in claims 1 and 26.